

The Man Who Became an Ant

Pastor Joseph Clark – June 26, 2020

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

- Proverbs 6:6-8

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Philippians 2:5-8

Once upon a time there was a man. A very special man. He spent his days watching the ants in his backyard as they built ant hills and stored their food. They were industrious and productive. The man was a good man and he took pity on the ants. He wanted to show them a better way.

So, he stood above the ants and he preached to them. But they did not understand him. So, he shouted to them. But still, they did not understand him. So, he sang to them. And still, they did not understand him. He attempted to speak to them through sign language, and then failing that, he took a felt pen and paper and he wrote messages to them in human language. But the ants just kept working away marching in and out of their ant hills.

Ants are a very interesting insect. Their primary way of communicating is through sense of smell. They emit chemical signals to each other using pheromones which communicate very specific messages to their fellow ants. They also communicate using sound by rubbing parts of their bodies together to create sound

like a cricket does with its legs. Many people are unaware that ants are related to wasps. Some ants have wings and these come from their ancient wasp ancestors.

The man studied the ants and said to himself, "I know what I will do. I will become an ant, and that way, they will listen to me." So, the man -who was a very special man- became an ant and he went to the ants and communicated with them in a manner that only the ants could understand.

So why did God come to us in the form of a man? Why not descend onto the Earth in a glorious golden chariot with shock and awe. Why not come to us surfing on a bolt of lightning? Or some other manner of arrival that all beheld and would say "Look at his power and strength!"

The first mistake is to try to psychoanalyze God. We as human beings can only relate to things on human terms. Not Godly terms. Secondly, as we are to God, ants are to us. In fact, we are much closer to ants, than a man compared to God. We were made in his image, yes, but we are giving ourselves too much credit to compare ourselves to God as to compare ants to us. The only way that ants could relate to us is if we appeared to them as ants. Ants cannot possibly understand human thinking, human expression, or human language. If we were to appear to ants, we would have to do so as an ant in order to be understood. The same goes for God. He came to us as a man, so that he could communicate to us in a manner that we could relate to.

Why appear to us in the form that Christ did? Every good virtue starts with God. Humility, modesty, grace, fortitude, temperance, and more. God could have appeared to us in any form he chose.

The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, (Colossians 2:19)

But made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:7)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah (:6)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (Colossians2:9-10)

And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

The Father and I are one. (John 10:30)

Christ came to us as a man. Divine, but a man. His existence was miraculous. His presence and ministry violated the laws of probabilities and the laws of nature. Despite being flesh and blood, he was sinless. He suffered emotionally and physically as we all do. He bled. His feet required cleaning just as ours do. He spoke to us in terms that we could comprehend and relate to. And he did not just speak to us, but he connects with us demonstrably. He walked-out and demonstrated what is expected of us and what he is. His ways are in no way sinful in nature. His ways were not violent, or oppressive, despite the fact that he was authoritative.

He came in the form of a man but he was not just a man. When I think of Peter falling at Jesus knees in humility and in shame, it brings tears to my eyes:

Luke 5:1-10

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ²He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed him.

This brings tears to my eye, because I can relate! I fell to my knees in humility and shame one beautiful day when I chose to receive Christ and was saved.

"Christ literally walked in our shoes." - Tim Keller

“I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself; this is hungry Jesus; I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.” – Mother Teresa

“Only by being both deity and humanity could Jesus Christ bridge the gap between where God is.” – David Jeremiah

“In God becoming human in Jesus Christ, God has established solidarity with the human condition.” – William A. Dembski

“There is only One Being who can satisfy the last aching abyss of the human heart, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.” – Oswald Chambers

If Jesus came to us in a form that was more than a man, we would not be able to relate to him. He would not have been able to die for us as a man. Everything that we ever suffer through in life, he has suffered more for us. He was persecuted for us and he remains persecuted to this day. Any Christian knows that persecution. His ministry and preaching continue to this day. Believers know how it feels to be moved by the Word and move others by evangelizing and preaching. His power is alive in us and it confronts those who are in need of him, and his presence in us

compels people today as it did when he walked with his Disciples, and his people still confess.

All other religious figures are dead. Jesus is the living Christ. He was both divine and man. No other religious figure performed miracles and fulfilled prophecies in front of so many verifiable witnesses. No other prophet or religious figure had power over nature as Christ did. He connected with us as a man while he spoke with the authority of God. Jesus is unique from any other religious figure ever. Because he is the living Christ, God the son. The one and only God.

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